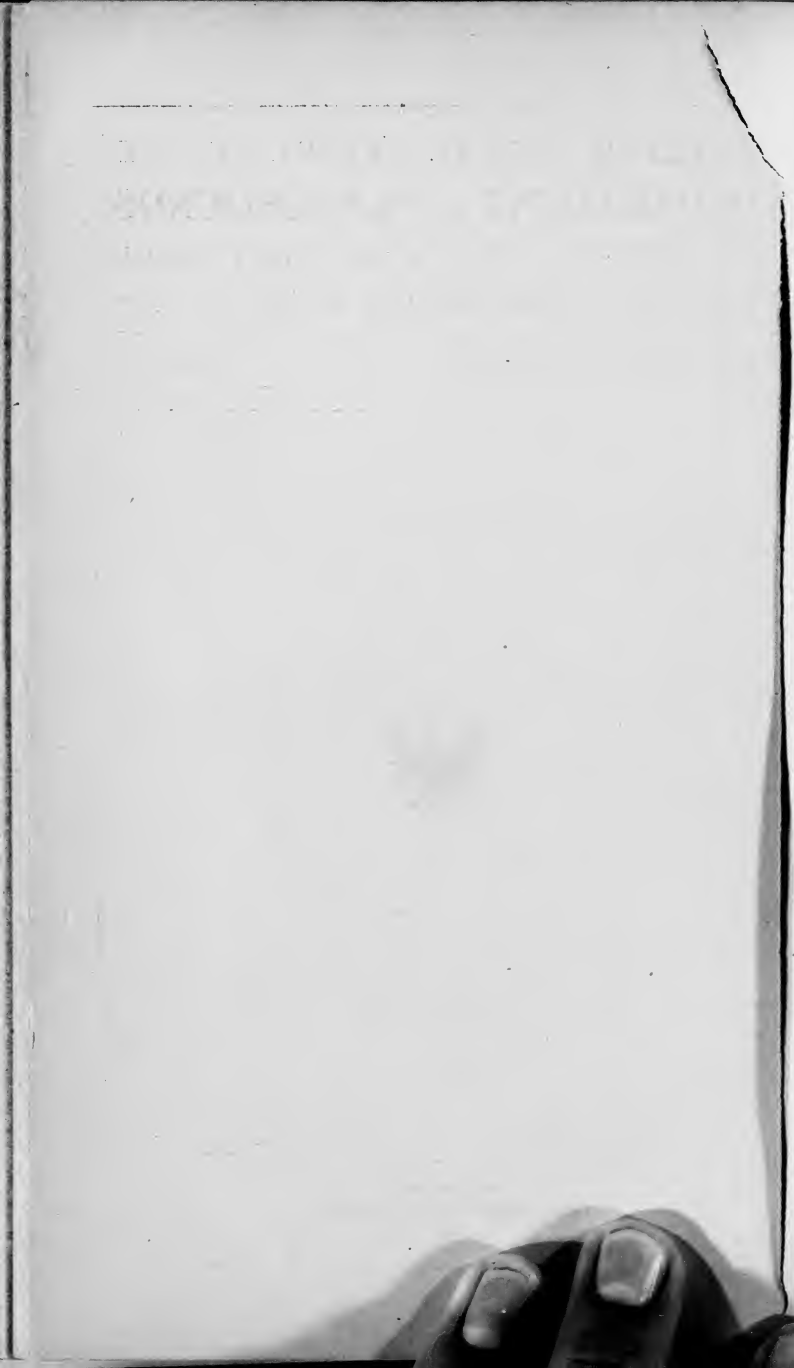


TWELFTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
DEPARTMENT *of* PLAYGROUNDS
OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 1923

MRS. SUSIE ROOT RHODES - - - - Supervisor



WASHINGTON
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE
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WASHINGTON, D. C., *September 24, 1923.*

To the COMMISSIONERS OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA:

GENTLEMEN: The supervisor of playgrounds presents herewith her eighth report, which is the twelfth annual report of the department of playgrounds. This report covers the period from July 1, 1922, to June 30, 1923.

In the Nation's Capital new playgrounds have this year replaced the old. The old playgrounds in the shape of locked-up school yards, vacant lots, back yards, and alleys with their weeds and rubbish have become new playgrounds with supervision for the children of Washington through the municipal playground department under the supervision and direction of the Commissioners of the District of Columbia.

The fact that the District commissioner in charge of playgrounds, Mr. James F. Oyster, had been for seven years president of the Board of Education, has had a very marked effect upon the child life of our city. Commissioner Oyster is vitally interested in the children, for whom he had worked so hard to get proper school facilities, including equipped playgrounds, and he would not sit quietly by as commissioner and see these children through the long summer vacation with no place but the streets for play; the school grounds—that had been bought and equipped out of the taxpayers' money—closed, the apparatus locked, and the children not allowed on the grounds, with only municipal playgrounds enough to take care of one-fourth of the children of the city. All this to his mind would be a great mistake and an injustice to the children of that larger class of citizens who were constantly appealing for playgrounds.

The commissioner saw clearly that the need was to open that which the city already possessed—the school playgrounds—and to furnish supervision for the same. His appeals to the public and his pleas before the congressional committee have resulted in additional facilities for the children. During the first summer, through gifts and volunteer workers, 16 playgrounds were opened, and during the past year through congressional appropriation 22 playgrounds were opened during the summer, with 10 of the larger yards kept open daily after school during the fall term, and, moreover, there is increased appropriation available July 1, 1923, for summer playgrounds.

The past year the number of visits to the playgrounds have totaled 2,994,686. The increase was marked and very largely due to increased facilities. During the summer there was an average

daily attendance of 20,000 children, the grounds were open from 9 a. m. until 8 p. m. or dark; on Saturdays from 9 a. m. until 4.30 p. m.; through the spring and fall the daily attendance was 15,000, with playgrounds open from 11.45 until dark; the school grounds were open daily during the fall term from 3 to 6 p. m.

The healthful opportunities offered by our recreation department can hardly be measured. The achievements of the playground department can not be measured by rule of thumb, the children may be counted and the number of games statistically compiled, but the effect of recreation centers on character, though known to be considerable, may not be measured with mathematical accuracy. In the matter of health this outdoor life and exercise speaks for itself at once.

Instruction is given in many kinds of handwork, and thus the playground becomes a specialized school without the expense and without its restrictions. Some of the latest playgrounds bought by the municipal playground department were adjacent to school yards and were selected with the view of reaching the largest number of children. All of our playgrounds are supervised by a director and the larger ones have at times two or more play leaders. Our playground equipment is not over abundant but the apparatus we have has been selected with care and is of up-to-date type; this equipment includes sand boxes, swings, seesaws, slides, tether poles, giant strides, gymnasium frames, tennis, volley and basketball courts.

Three of our playgrounds have swimming pools and five have wading pools where the little people are given a chance to play in the water. Our wading pools add to the joy and well-being of the children and our swimming pools have done much for those who wish an opportunity to learn to swim, and those who are already adepts in the art have shown their appreciation by the large numbers that flock to the pools. There are regular swimming classes every day at each pool: a life guard and a swimming teacher are always on duty.

In our occupational play the children are taught the things that most interest them—needlework, embroidery, crochet, tatting, knitting, machine sewing, jig sawing, art dyeing, flower making, paper cutting, the making of small garments, basketry of various sorts of simple and intricate designs of reed, raffia, and splints, chair caning and rug weaving. Our children are busy, industrious little people and the playground is their workshop. While they are gaining in health and happiness in their outdoor activity the director is, almost unconsciously to the children, instilling the principles of industry, honesty and self-control, and while spending their time happily they are also gaining the elements of good citizenship.

The children are taught to be the first aids to the health department and to the fire department from the first "swat-the-fly" period until late in the season when they celebrate "fire-prevention week." There has also been held on each playground a "safety-first week," when the children are especially taught the safest way to cross a street and how to help others across. In our playground "clean-up week" we try to instill in each child an "antilitter" spirit to help all through the other 51 weeks of the year. Our "be kind to animals week" has given the children a chance to not only show their pets but to tell about them and the care that they re-

quire. A party is given on each playground when every child wishing to do so may bring his own pets, among which are parrots, monkeys, alligators, lizards, dogs, cats, turtles, rabbits, guinea pigs, goats, and ponies. In fact, birds, animals, and fishes abound on the playgrounds bringing much joy for this one week. During this time the children have talks on kindness to animals and stories are dramatized to impress the meaning of it all on their minds. A book is kept on each ground in which is listed the name and address of each child who has a pet of his own, with whatever description the child cares to give. Prizes have been offered for the best animal stories written on each ground. "Tree-planting week" was observed on our playgrounds. Trees were registered by the American Forestry Association, having been planted with great ceremony on Arbor Day. We have on the playgrounds some activity that touches up with whatever is of interest to the community at that particular season. When the grown people are celebrating "fire-prevention week" the children of the playgrounds are being taught the extreme danger of playing with matches, and thus are better able to understand and perhaps add to the home conversation regarding the everyday happenings in civic affairs.

The athletics of the public elementary schools of the District of Columbia are played off on the municipal playgrounds, where teams representing the schools in basket ball, baseball, and soccer for boys and basket ball, schlag ball, and tennis for girls play for the division and city championships. The attendance is not obligatory, but is fostered and encouraged by many school principals. Besides being good exercise and fine sport the athletic games promote school spirit and loyalty. These contests are carefully supervised by the playground director; all bats, balls, mitts, masks, and athletic goods are furnished by the municipal playground department; high standards of sportsman-ship are maintained.

On playgrounds we are very enthusiastic about the mass-play games. Of course, there is much free play, there are quiet games, tennis tournaments, tin-can golf, kite tournaments, roller skating contests, quoit pitching, and the athletic badge test for boys and girls. Track and field events were held on each ground, ending in a general track meet given at the Central Stadium. The marble tournaments on each ground were of great interest. Our city champion, Alton Darne, of Georgetown playground, attended the national tournament in Atlantic City and defeated 35 of the 40 city champions. At the quiet hour in the outdoor kindergarten the children are busy with paper folding, cutting, pasting, drawing, painting, clay modeling, and card sewing. Excursions made to points of interest by the children in company with a director have proven helpful; hikes stimulate interest in outdoor life and nature study. In June, at the request of the "Better homes committee of America," a playground was equipped by this department in the yard of the "Home, Sweet Home" house to demonstrate better play facilities in America.

Our children have had much pleasure in the moving pictures taken of their sports and games by Crandall theaters. Through the kindness of Mr. Harry M. Crandall and the Crandall educational and public service director, Mrs. Harriet Hawley Locher, all children near each of the six Crandall theaters have had advantage of seeing

education films and the fun of seeing themselves and playmates of their playground on the screen doing their own stunts.

Where groups of children must find their amusement on the streets the results are always running, shouting, sometimes fighting, and, among the younger children, often crying. No one in such localities can be happy, parents and householders are annoyed, and the children are a disturbing element; but the change is remarkable when a playground is located in one of these sections, for when the children have proper material to play with and supervision they become so absorbed in their own activities that they cease to be boisterously noisy, and therefore are not only happy and safe but the entire neighborhood benefits thereby.

Parents will find it exceedingly interesting to-day to visit the playgrounds in Washington and observe the methods and equipment used. They will find the children, in the main, busy and happy. The vocabulary of the playground director is not crowded with "don't"; the playground slogan is "do."

Under the direction of Mr. F. J. Brunner, superintendent of the municipal bathing beach, thousands of girls and boys attended the elementary instruction classes. About two-thirds learned to take care of themselves in deep water. In addition to elementary instruction, there were classes in life saving and fancy diving which were taken advantage of by the swimmers of the city, both men and women.

It is the aim of the playgrounds to provide opportunity for physical improvement as well as play for the pure fun of it, to provide occupational play guarding against idleness and mischief, to prevent delinquency, to provide a play curriculum of beneficial sports and games.

Each spring there is a training class for recreation workers. All who apply for positions on the playgrounds in the District of Columbia and have not had special training in this line of work are put into an apprentice class, where the usual program of games, sports, and handwork are taught before the applicant may be appointed to a position in the department.

Municipal playgrounds.

WHITE.

Bloomington	1st and Bryant Sts. NW.
Dennison ¹	S St. NW. between 13th and 14th Sts.
Gallinger	F St. NW. between 21st and 22d Sts.
Garfield	2d and F Sts. SE.
Georgetown	33d and Volta Place NW.
Happy Hollow	18th and Kalorama Road NW.
Hoover	2d and N Sts. SW.
Iowa Avenue	13th and Varnum Sts. NW.
Mackin ²	V St. NW. between 14th and 15th Sts.
Mitchell Park	23d and S Sts. NW.
Montrose Park	30th and R Sts. NW.
New Hampshire Avenue	New Hampshire Ave. and L St. NW.
New York Avenue	1st and New York Ave. NW.
Park View	Warder and Otis Sts. NW.

¹ Opened to take care of children who formerly used Mackin playground.

² Closed Dec. 31, 1923.

Rosedale	17th and Kramer Sts. NE.
Trinity Community House	3d and C Sts. NW.
Thomson	12th and L Sts. NW.
Twin Oaks	14th and Taylor Sts. NW.
Virginia Avenue	Virginia Ave. SE. between 9th and 10th Sts.

COLORED.

Cardozo	1st and I Sts. SW.
Howard	5th and W Sts. NW.
Logan	3d and G Sts. NE.
Phillips School	27th and N Sts. NW.
Willow Tree	3d, 4½, B, and C Sts. SW.
Reno Tennis Courts	Donaldson and Ellicott Sts. NW.

School yards open during the summer, 1922.

WHITE.

Arthur	1st and Arthur Place NW.
Bowen	3d and K Sts. SW.
Brookland	10th and Monroe Sts. NE.
Bryan	13th and B Sts. SE.
Corcoran	28th and M Sts. NW.
Cooke	17th and Columbia Road NW.
Eaton	34th and Lowell Sts. NW.
Emery	Lincoln Road and Prospect Sts. NE.
Fairbrother	10th and E Sts. SW.
Henry-Polk	7th and P Sts. NW.
Johnson-Powell	Park Road and Hyatt Place NW.
Jefferson	6th and D Sts. SW.
Thomson	12th and L Sts. NW.
Wallach	D St. SE. between 7th and 8th Sts.

COLORED.

Briggs	22d and E Sts. NW.
Bruce	Kenyon St. NW. between Georgia and Sherman Aves.
Birney	Nicholas Ave., Anacostia, D. C.
Giddings	3d and G Sts. SE.
Langston-Slater	North Capitol and Pierce Sts. NW.
Lovejoy	12th and D Sts. NE.
Magruder	18th and M Sts. NW.
Phelps	Vermont Ave. and T St. NW.

School yards open daily, after school hours, during the fall term.

WHITE.

Adams	17th and R Sts. NW.
Cooke	17th and Columbia Road NW.
Corcoran	28th and M Sts. NW.
Dennison	S St. NW. between 13th and 14th Sts.
Jefferson	6th and D Sts. SW.
Thomson	12th and L Sts. NW.

COLORED.

Briggs	22d and E Sts. NW.
Bruce	Kenyon St. NW. between Georgia and Sherman Aves.
Giddings	3d and G Sts. SE.
Payne	15th and C Sts. SE.

Suggested schedule for summer work.

- 9 to 9.30. Apparatus, goal throwing.
 9.30 to 10. Games (organized).
 10 to 10.30. Stories or quiet games.
 10.30 to 11. Ring games. Wading pool (10.30 to 11.30 for girls).
 11 to 12. Kindergarten. Wading pool (11.30 to 12.30 for boys).
 12 to 1. Free play.
 1 to 2. Stories or quiet games.
 2 to 3. Basketry or construction work. Button test for girls.
 3 to 4. Button test for boys. Wading pool (3 to 4 for girls).
 4 to 6. Industrial work, sewing, knitting, crocheting, etc. Wading pool (4 to 5 for boys).
 6 to 6.30. Free play.
 6.30 to 8. Ring games, folk dances, music.

The suggested schedules have been tried on various grounds and proved successful. When there is a director with an assistant on the ground at the same time the programs may be elaborated, making more supervised activities. Free play takes place all the time. Baseball, dodge ball, tennis, and races are ever popular, the leader merely having to start the activity.

Suggested schedule (toddlers' corner), 6 years old and under.

- 9 to 9.30. Sand boxes, swings.
 9.30 to 10. Games (running or play-ball games).
 10 to 10.30. Stories or quiet games, block building.
 10.30 to 11. Ring or singing games, finger plays.
 11 to 11.30. Kindergarten work.
 11.30 to 12. "Clean-up" time (washing of faces and hands, brushing off clothes, shoes, etc.).

Suggested schedule for spring and fall.

- 12 to 1. Games (organized), children's recess time from school.
 1 to 1.30. Free play.
 1.30 to 2. Stories or quiet games.
 2 to 3. Kindergarten.
 3 to 3.30. Free play.
 3.30 to 5. Public school athletics.
 5 to 5.30. Games (low organized).
 5.30 to 6. Minor sports.
 6 to 6.30. Free play.
 6.30 to close. Ring games, folk dances, music.

The following are the types of the various activities:

HIGH ORGANIZED GAMES.

Basket ball.
 Schlag ball.
 Volley ball.
 End ball.
 Newcomb ball.
 Captain ball.
 Baseball.
 Soccer ball.
 Tennis.
 Football.
 Tin-can golf.

LOW ORGANIZED GAMES.

Dodge ball.
 Touch ball.
 Double-pass ball.
 Overhead ball.
 Cowboys and Indians.
 Line wrestling.
 Hare and hounds.
 Three deep.
 Club snatch.
 Center catch ball.

FREE OR RUNNING GAMES.

Last couple out.
Poison.
Baby in the hat.
Back to back.
Prisoner's base.
Poison snake.
Tag games (stoop, Japanese, etc).
Fox and chickens.
Birds and snakes.
Hill Dill.
Running water, still water.
Swat the Kaiser.
Have you seen my sheep?
Grunt, pig, grunt.

RACES.

Three-legged.
Potato.
Egg.
Obstacle.
Wheelbarrow.
Horse and rider.
Hopping.
Stone.
Sack.

ATHLETICS.

Dashes.
Running high jump.
Standing high jump.
Running broad jump.
Standing broad jump.
Hop, step, and jump.
Relay races.
Button test for boys.
Button test for girls.

QUIET GAMES.

Half past.
Black magic.
Stage coach.
Bright idea.
I see.
Buzz.
Gossip.
Pies.
Old witch.
How, when, and where.
Store.
Up Jinks.
Birds, beasts, and fish.
Going to Europe.

KINDERGARTEN.

Paper folding.
Drawing and crayoning.
Construction.
Cut-out work.
Painting.
Clay modeling.
Card sewing.

INDUSTRIAL AND HAND WORK.

Embroidery.
Sewing (hand and machine).
Crocheting.
Knitting.
Weaving.
Caning.
Jig-saw work.
Basketry (raffia and reed).

STORIES.

Fairy stories.
Stories for special days.
Historical.
Animal.
Nature.

RING GAMES.

Lassie.
Round goes the squirrel.
Bluebell.
Go round and round the village.
Snail.
Windmill.
Lady locket.
Muffin man.
Travelers.
Little playmate, dance with me.
Briar rose bud.
Little Sally Ann.
Lads and Lassies.

FOLK DANCES.

Danish dance of greeting.
Gustafs Skoal.
Kuldansen.
Klapdans.
Hans and Gretel.
Gathering peascods.
Bleking.
I see you.
Shoemaker's dance.
Virginia reel.
Black nag.

SUMMER BASEBALL.

For the first time in the history of the playground department no interplayground baseball series was held. Instead, each playground conducted three leagues—midget, junior, and unlimited classes of three or four teams. In this way more boys were given a chance to compete than in the interplayground league.

To give an idea how this plan worked out a league from Garfield playground is here shown. This is the final standing of the midget league:

Team.	Won.	Lost.
Star Fish Giants.....	16	4
F Street Stars.....	14	6
Speed Boys.....	5	15
Iron Hearts.....	5	15

The director selected the boys she considered most capable to manage each team and called a meeting. She had previously prepared a list of the boys on the ground eligible for each class and from which managers drew names until the boys were equally distributed. On the Garfield playground there were 80 eligible midgets, and therefore each manager drew 20 names. Each team chose its own name.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL BASEBALL.

The baseball series of the graded public schools comprised eight divisions. Each division played a schedule of games and a champion was selected. The champions were then placed in sections, eastern and western, and an elimination series was played in each section. The winners of the sectional titles are eligible to play for the championship of the city, and this year Monroe won in the western section, while Buchanan was victorious in the east-side games. The city championship series between these teams, a three-game series, resulted as one of the best in recent years. The first game was an 18-inning scoreless tie, the second and third games were won by Buchanan by close scores. All of the games were played well, much to the gratification of the playground officials, who have worked for years not only to make good and healthy athletes of the boys but good sports who can lose and still smile and congratulate the winner.

Division.	Number of schools.	Champion.
Bloomington.....	8	Gage.
Columbia Heights ¹	9	Monroe.
Garfield.....	7	Dent.
Georgetown.....	12	Tenley.
New York Avenue.....	7	Blake-Gales.
Plaza.....	5	Carbery.
Virginia Avenue.....	7	Buchanan.
Rosedale.....	15	Pierce.

¹ City championship won by Monroe of the Columbia Heights Division.

SPRING ATHLETIC MEET.

The annual public school field and track meet conducted by the playground department brought out more entries and enthusiasm in proportion to any previous year. The entries numbered about 2,000

in 56 schools, which were divided into seven divisions, each having a day at Central High School stadium. The boys placing first, second, or third in the division meet were eligible for the city meet held June 16 in the Central Stadium. Ross School won for the eighth consecutive time, scoring 40 points. Monroe was a close second with 35 points. Point scorers were:

School:	Points	School:	Points.
Ross.....	40	E. V. Brown.....	8
Monroe.....	35	Carbery.....	8
West.....	19	Brookland.....	6
Peabody.....	14	Thomson.....	4
Cooke.....	13	Jackson.....	4
Powell.....	9	Madison.....	3
Force.....	8	Tyler.....	3

Division meet, 1923.

Playground division.	Number of schools.	Champion.	Number of entries.	Points scored.
Bloomington.....	6	Brookland.....	210	73½
Columbia Heights.....	11	Ross.....	416	70
Garfield.....	5	Peabody.....	165	124
Georgetown.....	8	Force.....	264	43
New York Avenue.....	6	Thomson.....	256	81
Rosedale.....	11	Carbery.....	265	74
Virginia Avenue.....	9	Wallach.....	250	86½

SOCCER BALL, 1922.

The annual soccer ball league composed of boys from the elementary schools of the District, conducted by the playground department, was more interesting than during any previous year. The playground department is the only organization in the city fostering soccer and it was not until this year that the grade-school boy attained the skill in soccer that he has in baseball. For the past five years the third, fourth, and fifth grade boys have been permitted to have a second league on the ground in order to develop soccer. This was not necessary in baseball, as the facilities for the great American game are at the boy's hand from the first time he mingles with the "fellows." The result of this second league could be seen in the expert playing of the boys in the 1922 series.

The seven divisions handled 60 schools; the winner of each division was placed in a section, either the eastern or western, for the play-off. Monroe won the western title by eliminating Gage and Fillmore, while Pierce won the eastern by defeating Blake-Gales, Buchanan, and Brent. Then began the greatest series since the playground soccer league originated. The first game ended a scoreless tie after a full game and two extra periods had been played. The second was won by Monroe 1 to 0. The third, another two-extra-period game, was a scoreless tie. Pierce came back in the fourth game and won 1 to 0. This also required an extra period. The fifth game, the fourth extra-period game, was won by Monroe 1 to 0. In the last minute of play, as darkness was coming over the field, the Monroe team kicked the goal that won for it the city championship in one of the greatest athletic contests ever played.

Division.	Schools.	Champion.
Bloomingtondale.....	7	Gage.
Columbia Heights ¹	9	Monroe.
Garfield.....	7	Brent.
Georgetown.....	10	Fillmore.
New York Avenue.....	7	Blake-Gales.
Rosedale.....	14	Pierce.
Virginia Avenue.....	6	Buchanan.

¹ City champion, 1922, Monroe.

TRACK MEET ON COLORED GROUNDS.

If there be any one event that has special favor on colored grounds, that event is a field and track meet. Several times during the summer each ground holds a field day and invites the other grounds to compete. The events usually are dashes, broad and high jumps, hop-step jumps, and relays. Records are kept of the best performances and each year the boys try to improve them.

BASEBALL ON COLORED GROUNDS.

Colored baseball in Washington is handled almost in its entirety by the municipal playground department. No other organization encourages the juvenile colored players, while this department conducts leagues on each ground and has men instructors in its employ, usually college men, who train the young colored boys in the great American game.

Every day after working hours and on Saturday afternoon all colored playground diamonds are crowded with players and spectators, some still in their working clothes, all eager for the game. The spectators are often elderly men and women who seem to enjoy the game quite as much as the participants and cheer the good plays while hurling good-natured taunts at the players' miscues. In the few sections where it has been possible for the department to place baseball fields juvenile delinquency has been reduced to a minimum.

BOYS' INTERPLAYGROUND TENNIS.

Tennis for boys on the playgrounds has attained remarkable popularity. The tennis courts are in great demand; the department has endeavored to place them on every ground where there is available space. All of the directors are capable tennis instructors and each summer several hundred boys are taught the game. Playground tournaments are held and plans are being made to hold an inter-playground tournament the coming summer.

There are 18 clay courts located on the municipal playgrounds:

	Courts.
Bloomingtondale, First and Bryant Streets NW.....	6
Georgetown, Thirty-third and Volta Place NW.....	2
Iowa Avenue, Thirteenth and Iowa Avenue NW.....	1
New York Avenue, First and New York Avenue NW.....	1
Park View, Warder and Otis Streets NW.....	1
Rosedale, Seventeenth and Kramer Streets NE.....	2
Virginia Avenue, Virginia Avenue SE. between Ninth and Eleventh.....	1

	Courts.
Cardozo, First and I Streets SW.....	1
Howard, Fifth and W Streets NW.....	2
Logan, Third and G Streets, NE.....	1
Reno Reservoir, Donaldson and Ellicott Streets NW.....	14

No permits are required for the use of playground courts. They are used mostly by children from 9 a. m. until 4.30 p. m., when they are turned over to the older boys and girls and adults. Inter and intraplayground tournaments are conducted on the playgrounds. The interplayground games are played off during July and August as part of the summer vacation activities. The municipal playground courts were used by 67,140 persons during the past year. Reno Reservoir courts are made of concrete, built on the top of the reservoir. Permits are required for the use of these four courts. Each permit allows the holder to play one hour a day, two days a week. These courts dry quickly after a rain, and are very much in demand. Nets are furnished, but players must provide their own rackets and balls. Permits are issued for each calendar month. No charge is made for permits for the use of any courts. More than 8,000 persons used these courts during the past year.

ATHLETIC BUTTON TEST FOR GIRLS AND BOYS.

During the late spring and summer the interest of the boys and girls is largely centered in the athletic button tests. As soon as the graded school league games are over in May until they start again in the fall the athletic test is one of the main features on the playground. Over 500 boys and girls each won either the gold, silver, or bronze button during the past year.

BASKET BALL, 1922.

Basket ball for girls becomes more popular each year. It not only affords splendid exercise and pleasure for the player but teaches fairness, cooperation, loyalty, and self-control. The schools were well represented in the division league, 62 schools entered teams and more than a thousand girls had a chance to learn the game. The playgrounds are divided into seven divisions and the champions of each were as follows:

Playground:	School.
Bloomington.....	Brookland.
Columbia Heights.....	Petworth.
Garfield Park.....	Brent.
Georgetown.....	Jackson.
New York Avenue.....	Twining.
Rosedale.....	Webb.
Virginia Avenue.....	Wallach.

Playground leagues of four or five teams were also formed on some of the grounds and the games were played after the elementary leagues had finished. Interplayground games were played on Saturdays.

¹ Concrete.

INDOOR TRACK MEET. 1922.

The playground department held the seventh annual indoor track meet in the Y. M. C. A. gymnasium. Three nights were required to complete the meet, April 18, 20, and 28.

Gallinger was the winner for the second time since the meets began in 1916. The first time Gallinger won was in 1920. Y. M. C. A. leaders assisted in the handling of the meet while the officials cooperated in making the affair possible by lending the gymnasium to the department.

There were 625 entries and the point scorers were:

Playground:	Points.
Gallinger.....	42
Park View.....	23
Mitchell Park.....	20
Iowa Avenue.....	14
New York Avenue.....	11
Plaza.....	9
Virginia Avenue.....	8
Georgetown.....	1

SCHLAG BALL.

In the spring when all the boys turn to baseball the girls' principal game is schlag. It has been a leading playground game for so long that it now ranks with the major sports. For the past seven years leagues have been formed from the graded schools and marked interest shown in all playground divisions where the games took place. Team play is a great help to the average girl. It gives her a better understanding of her playmates, teaches her to be unselfish, and in the end to meet defeat as well as victory, and so helps to mold her character.

Schlag ball results, 1923.

Playground:	School.
Bloomington.....	Langdon.
Columbia Heights.....	Petworth.
Garfield.....	Jefferson.
Georgetown.....	Jackson.
New York Avenue.....	Henry-Polk.
Rosedale.....	Maury.
Virginia Avenue.....	Wallach.
Plaza.....	Carbery.

TENNIS ON COLORED GROUNDS.

Tennis tournaments were held on most of the colored grounds and proved such a success that they have been planned on a larger scale for the coming season. The boys and girls enjoy the game and come out in great numbers to watch the matches. Tennis clubs were formed and played other clubs throughout the city.

POPULAR PLAYGROUND SPORTS.

The games mentioned among the elementary-school games are not the only popular sports on the playgrounds. Any fair day one may go to a municipal playground and see interesting quoit and horseshoe

matches. Both boys and girls play and each ground conducts several tournaments during the year.

One of the big playground problems is football. This game is not permitted on our playgrounds, as it was found that the smaller boys played quite as vigorously as their older brothers, consequently broken arms were becoming quite common. Soccer ball was substituted in 1914 and is quite as popular as football ever was. But it would be inexcusable if the young American boy should reach high-school age and not know the fine points and rules of the game (football) made so popular by the American colleges, and the Washington playground directors devised a game and called it "Touch football." The same rules, formations, trick plays, signals, and strategy used in the regular game may be used, except that a man is down when touched. No tackling is allowed. This eliminates the dangerous features and at the same time gives the boy a thorough knowledge of football.

Another game of Washington playground origin is tin-can golf. This game has attained national popularity. Requests are received daily from all sections of the country for rules and other information pertaining to the game. The game's origin is interesting. For about six weeks of the summer of 1921 the playgrounds of Washington could not secure baseballs. The city park playground used solely as a baseball field had an average attendance of 200 boys a day. Here, indeed, was a problem. No baseballs to play with, and therefore no games to watch. There was little else for them to do than to group under the trees and discuss the respective merits of professional baseball teams and players. A condition of this kind can only be understood by one who has had similar problems to deal with. The city park director's solution was tin-can golf.

At this time the Columbia Country Club was holding the national open golf tournament, and a few of the playground boys spent part of their day acting as caddies for the contestants. Their discussion was turned to golf. Almost every night Jim Barnes, the ultimate winner of the tournament, became the hero of the hour, overshadowing for the time even Babe Ruth.

The director, Mr. Richard Tennyson, sank six tin cans flush with the ground and placed them at random around the field and christened the game "tin-can golf."

The rubber balls, as first used, were too lively for the short drives over the rough ground, so wooden balls were purchased. The wooden balls were of just the right weight and liveliness for the course. In a short time nearly every boy in the neighborhood owned a shinny stick and a wooden ball. Not only the boys but their parents became ardent tin-can golfers.

The same rules as in golf may be used, but the following is a copy given to the District of Columbia directors:

RULES FOR TIN-CAN GOLF.

A shinny stick and a wooden ball is used.

It is not practical for more than four to start together, but when the first four reach the second hole then four more may start.

On the start the players drive once each, then the first player continues until he places his ball in the cup, then the second, until all four have "holed in," and continue thus around the six holes. When a player drives his ball off the course

or any place where it would be impossible to play it he may forfeit two strokes and place the ball on the ground nearest the place where it left the course.

The object of the game is to see who can complete the six holes in the least number of strokes.

It is a good idea to place a small flag about 1 foot from the hole.

A player must not place his ball more than 6 feet from the completed hole when he is driving for the next one.

If a player swings and misses the ball it does not count as a stroke.

MARBLES.

The second annual marble tournament of the District of Columbia was one of the most successful playground events. Washington a year ago was the first city to challenge another city for a marble tournament, our own champion playing the champion of Jersey City and later playing the champion of eastern Virginia. No attempt was made to organize a standard game or rules. During the past winter it was decided to make the marble tournament a national affair and a national committee was formed, consisting of Washington playground officials and officials of the Scripps-Howard newspapers. The last year's game of "fats" was abandoned and the game "ringer" was adopted instead, as the latter was a game requiring real marble skill. A set of rules was drawn up for each city playground tournament. The Washington playground office communicated with 45 cities, inviting them to enter the national tournament and to get in touch with the newspapers in their cities to handle the affair for them. Forty cities accepted and were furnished rules for the game "ringer."

The newspapers offered to defray the expense of the champion of each city to the national tournament at Atlantic City, together with the expense of the father or mother of the boy champion and also that of a newspaper representative.

During the tournament in Washington to decide its champion much interest was shown. Alton Darne, of Georgetown playground, won the District championship.

Late in June the 40 champions from 40 cities stopped off in Washington for a day on their way to Atlantic City to compete for the national championship. Commissioner Oyster received them in the District board room, gave them a hearty welcome, and turned the "keys of the city" over to them for the day. Mr. Isaac Gans, the president of the Chamber of Commerce, gave a short address to the boys and presented each with a souvenir book of Washington. Mr. George E. Farrell, head of boy clubs in America, spoke briefly on "achievement clubs" for boys. The supervisor of playgrounds completed the program by leading all present in the pledge of allegiance to the flag (it was Sunday) in lieu of the church service which each little traveler had missed.

At Atlantic City our champion, Alton Darne, defeated 35 of the 40 city champions before he was eliminated. He bore himself well in victory and in defeat as a true little American gentleman who congratulated young McCoy, of Columbus, Ohio, who won the national championship.

INDUSTRIAL WORK.

Industrial work is a great part of the playground life, especially during the summer months when the days are warm. Sewing, knit-

ting, crocheting, and basket-weaving classes are formed. The little girls make doll dresses, doll sweaters, wash cloths, and patchwork quilts, while the older ones make more useful things, such as smocks, aprons, handkerchiefs, and towels. The younger girls learn various types of work, such as appliqué embroidery, smocking, hemstitching, and drawn work. The wash cloths are knitted of cotton and have gay borders of silk crochet. Sweaters galore, just a bit of the summer work, are worn on return to school when the doors are opened in the fall.

Each girl furnishes her own material for her articles and is taught by the playground director how to shape the garments and is encouraged to keep busy during the vacation season and to make a variety of useful articles.

Basket weaving is an interesting art to the boys as well as to the girls and some of the best baskets are made by the former. Raffia and reed work are taught. Designs are woven in raffia giving a real Indian effect. The industrial hours are social also and during these periods lawn parties, hikes, and dances are often planned while the fingers are kept busy.

* INDUSTRIAL EXHIBIT.

The department did not hold its annual public industrial exhibit as in previous years. The best work is usually collected from each ground and placed in a central building where the public can see what the children have been taught to do with their hands. This year a great variety of baskets were exhibited in the playground office in the District Building. Each ground, however, had a special exhibit day for its own community of the children's work and in most cases the occasion was made a gala day with field events or a "party."

FOLK DANCING.

The stories and customs of the "old country" are given to the children in a unique manner. Swedish, Danish, Russian, Italian, and English folk dances are taught in the evening. Each dance has its own legend and with the quaint steps the child tries to express what the story means. For instance, if the dance is one that was long ago danced before a king, the child is very stately; if it be simply a peasant's country dance, the child may be frolicsome. In this way the child not only learns something in an educational way but thoroughly enjoys the freedom of dancing in the open.

OUTDOOR DANCES.

Dances were held during the spring, summer, and fall on the playgrounds having pavilions. The director is always present at these affairs and does all she can to make them attractive and enjoyable. Many mothers from the neighborhood and often directors from other playgrounds act as chaperons.

STORY TELLING.

Story-telling is very important in a child's life and there is a story hour on the playground every day. It develops the child's

thinking power, his imagination, teaches him concentration and to sympathize or be happy with others. Stories are popular with all ages and the larger boys and girls will listen attentively to stories intended for very small children.

HIKES.

Hikes have proved of great value in the development of the child. They instil into him the love of the outdoors and all that goes with it. The director bears in mind that hikes are taken to stimulate more interest in outdoor life and nature study and she plans trails and games that will bring the best results. Real pleasure is derived from building a fire in the open and cooking lunch or enjoying a marshmallow toast and the child returns home exceedingly happy after a day's tramp in the woods.

OUTDOOR KINDERGARTEN.

The freedom of working in the open is a joy to every child and kindergarten classes are held daily on the playgrounds. Paper folding, drawing, painting, clay modeling, card sewing, and construction work are taught. The finished piece of work often represents a story that has been told or some special lesson taught. The classes are usually opened with a "Good-Morning" song, Mother Goose rhymes, and finger plays.

TODDLERS' CORNER.

The toddlers' corner is a new institution on Washington playgrounds, having started last fall when all of the grounds took care of the children of preschool age from 10 to 12 o'clock. Out of these toddlers' corners has grown the nursery playground and the age limit is 6 years.

FESTIVALS.

Each season of the year brings with it some kind of a festival. As early as March the grounds commence getting ready for May Day. There is the May procession, crowning of the queen and the Maypole dance with fairies, butterflies, flowers, and brownies everywhere. The occasion always brings out people from far and wide and is looked forward to from one year to the next.

In the summer there are lawn parties with gay booths, balloons, flower girls, and fortune tellers. The mothers and fathers in the community help with these. Such special entertainments as baby shows, mother goose playlets, doll and pet shows, and sometimes a circus, take place during the season. Halloween parties were given on all grounds last year and were much enjoyed, as were also the Christmas celebrations with the Christmas carol singing.

In the city safety-week pageant the playgrounds had a float representing all playground activities. The following Sunday the playground children took part in a memorial service held in front of the District Building for all children who lost their lives in traffic accidents.

REPORT OF THE REPAIR AND CONSTRUCTION DIVISION.

It is the function of this division to keep the playgrounds in proper condition, to distribute supplies and equipment to playgrounds, to inspect all apparatus and pass upon its safety, to manufacture small playground apparatus, and to provide for the housing and safe-keeping of all playground stores and supplies.

During the year the equipment on all grounds has been kept in repair and apparatus constructed, such as swings, slides, ladders, frames for baby swings, kindergarten tables, benches, balance beams, bicycle racks, incline boards, seesaw boards, baby hammock frames, box-swing chairs, park benches, and a variety of similar articles. Baseball diamonds, soccer fields, tennis courts, and basket-ball courts were laid out and new pieces of apparatus installed.

The playground storehouse, which is the headquarters of the repair and construction division, is situated at 1062 Wisconsin Avenue NW. This building contains a carpenter shop, blacksmith shop, small machine shop, paint shop, tool room, storage room, and office.

Supplies are purchased in bulk and delivered to the storehouse, from where they are distributed weekly to the various playgrounds.

The number of men carried on the labor roll varies during the year. They are under the supervision of the inspector of playgrounds and directly responsible to the inspector for all work, material, and tools.

The expense of the repair and construction division is prorated among the various grounds.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS.

There is no factor more potent in determining the character of the future citizen than play. The leisure problem is a distinct social problem comparable in importance to public education. The greatest lessons in life are learned in organized play—obedience, cooperation, teamwork, respect for the rights of others, all desirable qualities in the coming citizen.

Since the park playgrounds are far more attractive to the child than any other, it is fair to conclude that every park should have a playground for children. We need additional maintenance to keep our grounds in better repair, that they may rank nearer in appearance with our parks.

Playgrounds should be within walking distance of every girl and boy, as most children can not afford to pay car fare. There must be supervision over these playgrounds. Play is almost the only method of physical development for city children, and we must provide for it if we would have the children strong and law-abiding.

Our needs are many—new grounds, permanent grounds, increased appropriations for the maintenance of grounds, more directors and assistants, and living wages for those already in our employ. We would emphasize the accepted opinion that the salary of the playground worker should equal the salary of the elementary-school teacher.

One of the most encouraging things to us is that the churches are expressing an interest in recreation and the use of the leisure time of the children.

RECOMMENDATIONS.

That every church or Sunday school interested become responsible for the salary of one director on the ground nearest their own church.

That more Federal reservations be available for supervised play.

That additional provision be made for swimming. Not only more outdoor swimming pools for summer use but indoor swimming should be available for all.

That shelter houses or open-air halls be built on all grounds now in operation.

That playgrounds be opened and lighted during the evening.

That the shops of the elementary schools be opened in vacations, that the children attending the playgrounds near by may have elementary woodwork. The repairing of broken toys and furniture would be good occupational play.

That school kitchens be opened in summer vacation and near-by playground children be given cooking lessons as an occupational recreation.

That branch libraries be opened on all playgrounds.

That playgrounds be included in any bond-issue plan for the District of Columbia.

SUSIE ROOT RHODES,
Supervisor of Playgrounds.

